

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS, TRAINING, AND SAFETY**

**Tuesday, November 28, 2006**

**4:05 p.m.**

**Room 308, House Office Building**

**Vice-Chair Marleau** called the Standing Committee on Employment Relations, Training, and Safety to order.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Reps. Gosselin, Marleau, Drolet, LaJoy, Farrah, Hopgood (6/7)  
**MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Rep. Bieda (1/7)

**Chair Gosselin**, supported by **Representative Farrah**, moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting held on March 29, 2006. Hearing no objection, the **motion prevailed** with unanimous consent.

**Vice-Chair Marleau** laid **House Bill 6640** before the committee.

HB 6640	Robertson	Worker's compensation; disabilities; worker's disability compensation for professional athletes; amend.
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**Representative Robertson** explained the intent of the bill and answered questions.

**Jack Nolish**, Director of the Michigan Worker's Compensation Agency, testified in **opposition** to the bill and answered questions. He also provided written material to the committee members.

**Fred Bleakley**, an attorney representing professional athletes, testified in **opposition** to the bill.

**Tim Gortsema** and **Tom Cypher**, representing the Grand Rapids Rampage and Griffins sports teams, testified in **support** of the bill and answered questions. **Mr. Gortsema** also provided a copy of his testimony to the committee members.

**David Watts**, an attorney representing injured players, testified in **opposition** to the bill and answered questions.

**Ken Fletcher**, representing the Michigan State AFL-CIO, testified in **opposition** to the bill.

Written material in **support** of the bill was submitted by the **Coalition for Workers Compensation Fairness**.

The following people submitted cards in **support** of the bill, but did not wish to speak:

**Wendy Hofmeyer-Block**, representing the Michigan Chamber of Commerce;

**Melissa Trustman**, representing the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce;

**Scott Lyon**, representing the Small Business Association of Michigan; and

**Jared Rodriguez**, representing the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

**Chair Gosselin**, supported by **Representative LaJoy**, moved to report **House Bill 6640** with recommendation.

**FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:**

**YEAS:** Reps. Gosselin, Marleau, Drolet, LaJoy (4/7)

**NAYS:** Reps. Farrah, Hopgood (2/7)

**PASS:** None (0/7)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the **motion prevailed**.

There being no further business to come before the committee, **Vice-Chair Marleau** declared the meeting adjourned, the time being **5:13 p.m.**

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**Representative James Marleau, Vice-Chair**

Jean Hamelin, Committee Clerk  
(517) 373-5632